

Fentanyl & Overdose Response

Blue Valentine, CHW- Benton County Health Department
November 17, 2022

Categorizing scenarios

- Not possible; no risk
- Potential, but not likely; little risk
- Possible; some risk
- Likely; high risk



Image from <https://unsplash.com/s/photos/bucket>

MYTH: Overdose from fentanyl-laced cannabis

- In the case of cannabis flower, smoking involves loading the material into a pipe or roll paper, lighting it on fire, and inhaling the smoke. Burning fentanyl with flame destroys it, so even if someone smoked cannabis contaminated with fentanyl, the fentanyl would not be active in the smoke.
- In the case of vaping cannabis, fentanyl's boiling point is 466°C, or about 871°F. The hottest temperature settings on cannabis vape pens are 210-220°C (or 410-428°F).



Information from <https://filtermag.org/fentanyl-marijuana-myth/amp/>

Image from <https://www.newschannel5.com/news/police-warn-of-marijuana-laced-with-fentanyl/>

MYTH: Overdose from touching a dollar bill

- Someone can not easily overdose by touching something that has fentanyl on it. However, you do need to make sure the opioid does not get into your mouth, nose, or eyes because then it can be dangerous.
- Fentanyl cannot penetrate the skin on its own. It needs moisture. That's why, in clinical care, patients are given fentanyl patches to aid in absorption and relieve pain.



Information from <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/verify/fentanyl-drug-deadly-verify-viral-social-media/275-bbb5fa3b-30d0-44ec-86ec-a334184ab524> and <https://www.statnews.com/2017/08/09/fentanyl-falling-ill/>

Image from: <https://www.pennlive.com/nation-world/2022/06/dont-pick-up-any-folded-money-the-bill-could-be-deadly-tennessee-sheriff-warns.html>

MYTH: Overdose from touching fentanyl



The American College of Medical Toxicology recently issued a position paper concluding that, based on what's been publicly released, none of the recent incidents involving first responders is consistent with opioid toxicity.

The doctors, who reviewed a handful of cases, said they are not challenging the truthfulness of the officers involved. Rather, they are questioning whether their reports are verified cases of poisonings that carry the hallmarks of opioid exposure.

Touching fentanyl does not lead to intoxication or overdose

- If our clients could use fentanyl by simply touching it, they would not have to worry about finding a vein in order to get high.
- Nobody is using fentanyl by simply touching it, because it doesn't work that way.



Information from common sense, think about it.

Image from <https://www.syfy.com/movies/et-the-extra-terrestrial>

Fentanyl risk to first responders

- A CPR mask can provide a barrier to help protect you, if you are worried about overdosing from performing CPR or rescue breaths to a person that is overdosing.

The American College of Medical Toxicology recently issued a position [paper](#) concluding that, based on what's been publicly released, none of the recent incidents involving first responders is consistent with opioid toxicity. The doctors, who reviewed a handful of cases, said they are not challenging the truthfulness of the officers involved. Rather, they are questioning whether their reports are verified cases of poisonings that carry the hallmarks of opioid exposure.

Fentanyl has increased the risk of overdose

- Fentanyl is often sold as heroin, and has also been found in cocaine, methamphetamine, and in pressed pills sold as MDMA, oxycodone, Xanax, and Adderall.
- Clients that are not opioid users are also at risk of overdose.



Images from <https://abc13.com/fentanyl-laced-ecstasy-houston-drugs-southeast-texas-tablets-poisoning/10465547/> and <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/19/health/pills-fentanyl-social-media.html>

Fentanyl Test Strips

- Fentanyl test strips are one tool to have in a harm reduction toolbox, and using them is one way to get a person thinking about safer drug use. It is also a great opportunity to put naloxone in their hands.
- People must test all of the drugs they are using, since fentanyl can hide in drugs like chocolate chips in cookies.




Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) have limitations

- BTNX Fentanyl test strips are able to detect Fentanyl and many other Fentanyl analogues such as Carfentanil, Acetyl Fentanyl, Butyryl Fentanyl, Remifentanil, Ocfentanil, Sufentanil, p-Fluoro Fentanyl, Furanyl Fentanyl, Valeryl Fentanyl, and 3-Methyl Fentanyl.
- Oregon has had fatal overdoses from analogues not detected by test strips, such as Cyclopropyl Fentanyl.
- There are more than 1400 fentanyl analogues.
- User error can occur with the test strips.
- **Two lines** indicate a NEGATIVE result.



Fentanyl Test Strips can have false positive results

- Fentanyl test strips will show a false positive result if diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is in the substance tested.
- Fentanyl test strips will show a false positive result if methamphetamine residue is not diluted with 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of water.
- Dilution is needed for pure MDMA, but a person may have MDMA with other substances, so proper dilution is difficult at best.

Sample Name 	Substance
<u>Dope</u> Code: AC2022C044 Sold as: Dope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flualprazolam• Niacinamide• Flunitazene• Metonitazene• Diphenhydramine• Brophine• Quinine• Caffeine

Information from https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Fact_Sheet_Fentanyl_Testing_Approved_ADA.pdf
https://www.aacc.org/-/media/Files/Divisions/TDM-TOX/AACC-TDM-CT-Newsletter_Summer_2020_final.pdf?la=en&hash=9AA897EBC6DE9E132FEEB5F070BB8AE45250843F#:~:text=At%203%20h%2C%206%20h,of%20high%20lev els%20of%20diphenhydramine. Image from <https://www.facebook.com/joltharmreductionpeoria/>

Signs of Overdose



Blue lips or nails
and pinpoint pupils



Dizziness and confusion



Can't be woken up



Choking, gurgling or
snoring sounds



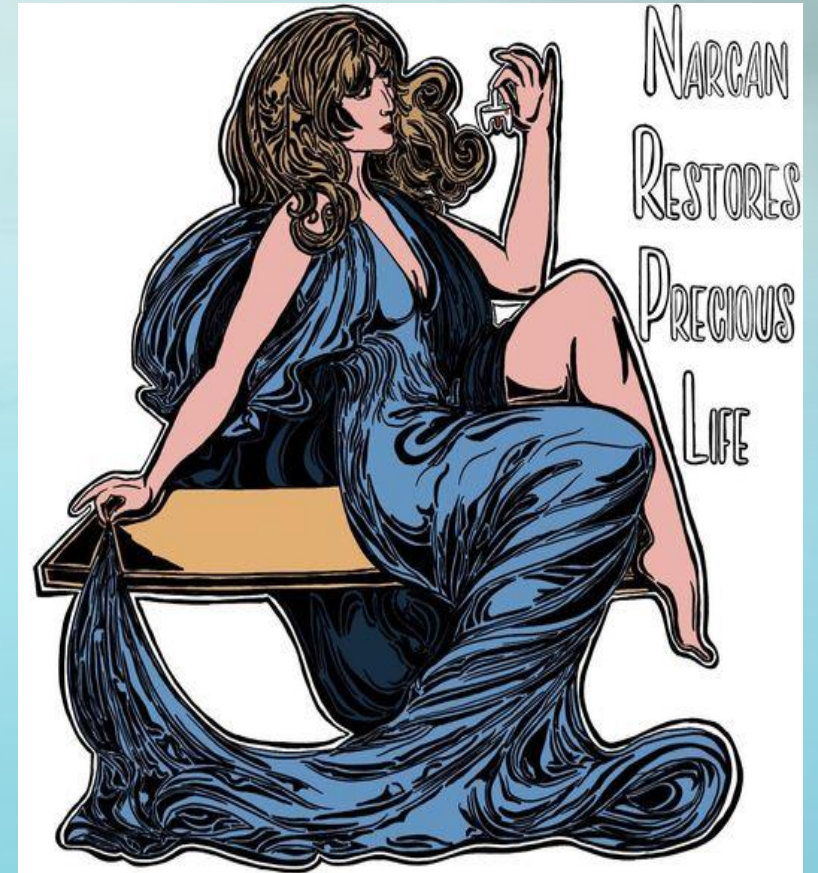
Slow, weak
or no breathing



Drowsiness or
difficulty staying awake

What happens when someone overdoses?

- They stop breathing
- No oxygen to the brain can cause brain damage and death



If You Think a Person is Overdosing:

- Rub their sternum with your knuckles to stimulate them
- Call 911 and tell them a person is unresponsive and not breathing
- Begin rescue breathing or CPR

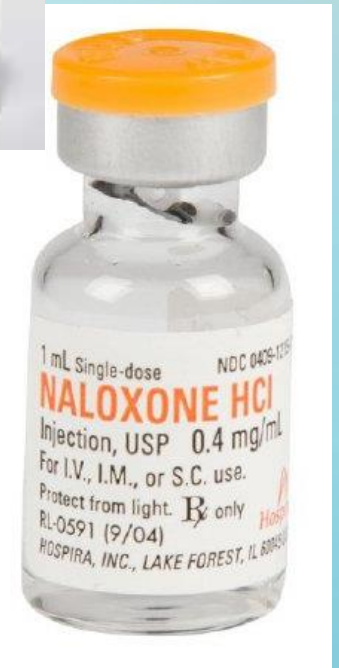


Narcan / Naloxone Administration

- Say “I am going to Narcan you”
- Administer Narcan or Naloxone
- Wait 2-3 minutes between doses
- Continue CPR or rescue breathing in between doses

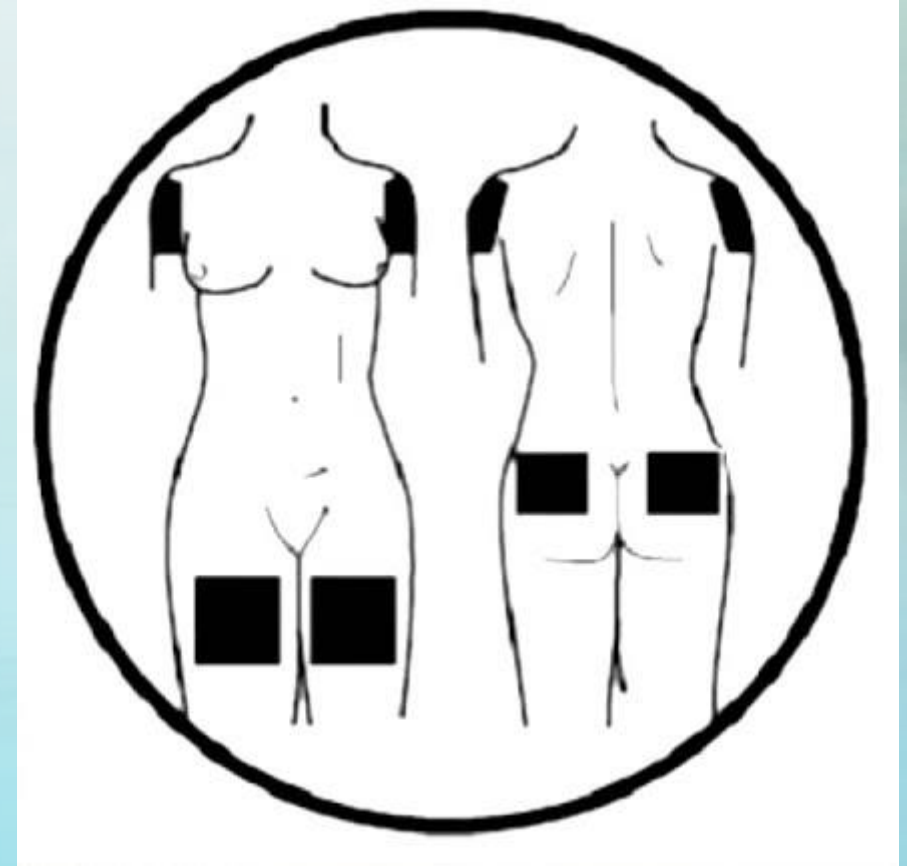
Narcan / Naloxone

- Narcan is a prescription medication.
- Giving a person Narcan can save their life
- Narcan is not harmful
- When in doubt, give someone Narcan
- Narcan only works with opioids; it will not affect any other drugs or medications a person is taking



Injectable Naloxone

- Remove the plastic cap from the vial
- Each vial is one dose
- Inject into the shoulder, thigh, or butt at 90 degrees
- Wait 2-3 minutes between doses
- Some needles have safety mechanisms that lock and act as a guard for the needle



Nasal Narcan

- Works even if a person isn't breathing
- Insert into a nostril and push the plunger
- Wait 2-3 minutes between doses



Expired Naloxone

- Expired Naloxone still works
- Many organizations rely on donations of expired naloxone
- You can still use expired naloxone, don't throw it away

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Naloxone Potentially Viable Decades Past Expiration Date, Study Finds

February 15, 2019 - Albany , NY

Naloxone products used to reverse opioid overdoses may still meet United States Pharmacopeia (USP) standards 30 years after the expiration date, according to research conducted by faculty and students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) and Albany Medical College (AMC). The research was published online February 4, 2019 in the journal *Prehospital Emergency Care*.

Good Samaritan Law

- Oregon has a Good Samaritan Law that protects anyone that administers naloxone in good faith effort to reverse opioid overdose.
- “A person acting in good faith, if the act does not constitute wanton misconduct, is immune from civil liability for any act or omission of an act committed during the course of distributing and administering naloxone and distributing the necessary medical supplies to administer the naloxone under this section.”

Recap- Overdose Response

***What
to do if
someone
ODs!!!***

- 1. Sternal rub**
- 2. Call 911**
- 3. Inject Narcan**
- 4. Rescue breathe**
- 5. Narcan every 3 minutes until they wake up**

References

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